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**NICKERSON STATE PARK CAMPGROUND REOPENS AFTER  
\$1 MILLION RECOVERY EFFORT TO REPAIR STORM AND FIRE DAMAGE**

The Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) Secretary Stephen R. Pritchard, The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Commissioner, Stephen H. Burrington along with representatives from Friends of Nickerson State Park and local businesses, today celebrated the reopening of the popular Nickerson State Park campground in Brewster. The park was closed in December 2005 when winter storms caused more than \$1 million in damage to the park's trees, electrical systems and buildings, delaying the park's opening for more than a month.

The devastating damage was repaired thanks to the efforts of numerous public and private parties. Officials also opened the newly reconstructed Contact Station at the park, which burned to the ground in a fire last summer.

"The reopening of Nickerson State Park in time for the kickoff of the summer season on Memorial Day is a much needed reminder that through teamwork, commitment and partnerships with friends, volunteers and local businesses, we can recover and move forward even after suffering devastating damage from unforeseen natural disasters," said EOEA Secretary Stephen R. Pritchard.

DCR Commissioner Stephen H. Burrington credited Secretary Pritchard with playing a key role in the recovery process by committing \$1 million dollars in state capital funds to finance the work needed to clean up and repair the state park. Some of the funds paid for a number of contracts with private tree removal companies that helped to remove some of the 2,000 trees downed in the storm.

Both officials paid tribute to the dozens DCR parks, forestry, fire control, engineering and administrative staff who were part of the Nickerson Recovery Team. "We are very proud of the sustained effort of DCR employees working many months in very hazardous conditions under very tight deadlines," said Commissioner Burrington. "It was their commitment and dedication, combined with support from the Friends of Nickerson State Park, volunteers and local businesses that contributed to the success of this effort."

**more**

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Stephen R. Pritchard, Secretary  
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Stephen H. Burrington, Commissioner  
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During the event, there was also a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new park Contact Station. Secretary Pritchard presented certificates of appreciation to the Friends of Nickerson and to local businesses that contributed materials and supplies to reconstruct the building after it was destroyed by fire last year that was caused by a space heater in the building. The Contact Station is an exact replica of the original, which was built in the 1930s.

Businesses recognized included Mid-Cape Home Centers for providing lumber, windows, doors, shingles and trim; Steve Allard Construction for donating framing services; Rhodes Heating and Cooling for donating and installing a heater and air conditioning unit; and David Raunela, electrician, for providing materials and services. All donations were matched by the EOEPA Office of Public Private Partnership in order to finish interior repairs, with much of the custom woodwork done by Nickerson Park Supervisor Jon Petersen and members of his staff.

“The Friends of Nickerson State Park are looking forward to a successful 2006 season. 2005 was a very challenging year,” said Jo-Ann Ferris, President of the Friends of Nickerson State Park, who originally appealed to local businesses to contribute toward the station’s reconstruction. “In lieu of the unexpected changes wrought by Mother Nature we are thrilled that our visitors will be greeted by the sight of the familiar contact station. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Mid-Cape Home Centers for their generosity and to DCR for their matching funds program. Great things can truly be accomplished with public/private partnerships.”

“Mid-Cape Home Centers is always happy when we can help out with a worthy local cause. Being able to help restore the contact station with the Friends of Nickerson State Park has been particularly gratifying,” said Doug Bohannon, President of Mid-Cape Home Centers, who contributed all the lumber for the building. “Many of our employees and their families have utilized the park over the years and have many memories from there. How could we not help?”

Nickerson State Park is one of the most popular facilities in the Massachusetts state park system. Last year there were 117,235 day-use visitors and 166,463 campground visitors at the park, which has a 400+ site campground. Generations of families have returned year after year to camp at the park and it’s also popular with scouting and school groups.

Commissioner Burrington pointed out that the campground visitors have a significant economic impact on the restaurants, beaches and other attractions on Cape Cod, and being able to reopen the park before Memorial Day was of benefit both to local businesses as well as to campers and park visitors

Nickerson State Park’s camping facilities will be open May 22 until Sunday, October 29. To make reservations at Nickerson or any other DCR campground, call ReserveAmerica at 1-877-I-CAMP-MA. For more information on other DCR campgrounds, visit <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/recreate/camping.htm>.